

UTAH COPPER DIVISION  
INTEROFFICE LETTER

TO S. D. Taylor

DATE August 19, 1980

FROM P. Grubaugh-Littig

SUBJECT Status of Revegetation of Evaporation Pond

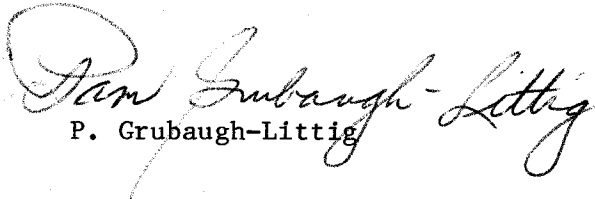
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During the early 1970's dust storms of loose iron salts occurred at the evaporation ponds, located approximately three miles east of the Bingham mine, arousing complaints from the residents in the area. Dust control of the evaporation ponds by revegetation began in early 1976. At that time, approximately 200 trees were planted on the northern edge of the worst dust-producing pond to form a wind row to screen the loose iron salts that were blowing (see IOL, PG to B. P. Ream, May 1978). Also in the spring of 1976, approximately 5,000 tons of organic lime were dumped and incorporated in the two worst areas and planted with a variety of grasses. In the fall of 1976, Paul Rokich once again planted wheat, alfalfa and sweet clover. The survival of these grasses was good and by 1977 about 40% cover was accomplished in the two pond area.

In 1978, 2,300 tons of organic lime were dumped at four different locations at the ponds and incorporated to aid in the planting. This planting was done in the spring of 1979 in the large ponds, as well as two other ponds. This planting involved the regular mix of grass and incorporating three tons of fertilizer. The success of this planting has resulted in about 85% cover of the ponds. The 5,000 pounds of lime that was improperly dumped in large piles, has been partly incorporated and will be further incorporated this fall. The present density of grass cover at the evaporation ponds is 85% (see attached photos).

The success and survival of the trees planted at the evaporation ponds has been very high. The trees planted in 1976 survived and are growing well; however, they have suffered from vandalism caused by trucks hitting them, but are growing again at the base and show regeneration (see attached photographs). In August 1979, 207 locust trees were planted on the south side of the western pond and all are growing extremely well.

The objective of all the plantings has been achieved and the dust is controlled at the evaporation ponds. The revegetation in this area is essentially completed and will be observed and upgraded as needed each year.

  
P. Grubaugh-Littig

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Attachments

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